

For Matthew, the story of the Magi becomes an anticipation of the fate of the Good News of salvation, a fate that he knew in the aftermath of the resurrection. God revealed himself to the Jews through the Scriptures, and to the Gentiles through nature. Hence, Matthew shows the Magi (who were Gentiles) receiving a revelation through astrology. The story highlights the paradox: the Jews who have the Scriptures reject Jesus, while Gentiles come and, with the help of the Scriptures, find and adore him.

There is nothing to be gained by speculating where the Magi came from and what exactly the star was. The star was only the means by which a great mystery was revealed – the revelation of Christ as the Savior of the Gentiles too.

The Second Reading expresses the theological meaning of today's feast: God invites Jew and Gentile to share on an equal footing the benefits of the salvation brought by Christ.



**Tax Statements for yearly contributions are available upon request.** These statements reflect contributions made through the regular church collections, the special second collections and the Catholic Sharing Appeal if they have been made in an identifiable fashion (church envelope, online or loose check). Any loose cash contribution cannot be credited.

Please email or call the rectory office if you need a tax statement ([stalparishos@gmail.com](mailto:stalparishos@gmail.com) or 875-5419).

Statements will be mailed by the end of the month.



**The Altar Society will take down the Christmas decorations in the Church** on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> after the 8:15 a.m. Mass. Anyone wishing to help is asked to please meet in the Church around 9:00 a.m.



**The 70th Irish Priests' Reunion** will be held on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church in Pass Christian. Bishop Paul Dempsey of Achonry, Ireland, will be the main celebrant and homilist.

This will be the final reunion. Come and take part in this special event. All are welcome.



**St. Alphonsus is hosting an XLT night** on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Church. This is an evening for all to come and worship the Lord in the presence of His Eucharistic body. There will be music and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available. We hope to see all of our parishioners at XLT and encourage all families to come. This is a great time to lay the burdens of everyday life at the feet of God and be filled with His peace.



**You are invited to come to a Marian Movement of Priest Cenacle Mass** on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mass, Rosary, and Consecration



A Diocesan Collection will be taken up next weekend (January 14/15) for **The Aged and Infirm Priests**. Envelopes are available at the exits of the Church.



**The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.**



**The Lord Is My Help** needs volunteers to pack take-out lunches from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. and/or to serve lunch from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (no cooking involved) the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to volunteer your time on any of these days at either/both of the times, please call Jamie Lloyd at 713-818-6071. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

## Pray For Vocations

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>JANUARY 9</b>
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Matthew 3:13-17	
6:30 a.m.	Ella and Simon Gilbert
8:15 a.m.	Mr. & Mrs. Morris (Anna) Rabe, Jr.
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>JANUARY 10</b>
Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28	
6:30 a.m.	Ms. Lan Thi Nguyen
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Jackie Endt
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>JANUARY 11</b>
Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39	
6:30 a.m.	Mr. Edward G. Dietrick, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Mona Alvez
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>JANUARY 12</b>
Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45	
6:30 a.m.	All Souls in Purgatory Protection of the Unborn
8:15 a.m.	Ms. Frances Williams
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>JANUARY 13</b>
Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12	
6:30 a.m.	Edward and Marie Weidner, Sr.
8:15 a.m.	Int. Mr. Ryan Scott Odom
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>JANUARY 14</b>
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17	
8:15 a.m.	Mr. Garrett Lavin
4:00 p.m.	Ms. Roberta Boyle
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>JANUARY 15</b>
Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34	
7:30 a.m.	Congregation
9:00 a.m.	Ms. Barbara Starkey
11:30 a.m.	Ms. Anna Grace Authement Alphonso
5:30 p.m.	Ms. Ann Tootle

## WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday Collection.....	\$13,070.00
Weekly Online Collection.....	\$ 1,703.00
Poor Collection.....	\$ 3,285.25

May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support



**Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Barney Banks, Kevin Barry, Beckett Bassenger, Christopher Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Betty Bodin, Bob Boney, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Bryleigh Brochard, Kay Brochard, Jeff Brochard,

Roland and Margaret Broussard, Roxie Buckles, Sybil Burchinal, Arlene Burns, Carolyn Castleman, Jennifer Catchot, Christine Chandler, Pat Cronin, Billy Cruthirds, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Jeannine Dionne, Dale Dorcik, Marjorie DuBois, Nija Fountain, Gordon Gaethe, Ansley Gilich, Julian Galloway, Charlie Goff, Sandra Grantham, Mary Jo Hoogstra, Millie Jackson, Ashley Jensen, Otis Kaufman, Jack Kelly, Daisie Laborde, Judy and Randy Lesso, Albert Gregory Mansfield, Gordon Mathieu, Iva Misko, Johnny Mitchell, Edward Necaize, Terése Nicovich, Shirley and Travis Norman, The Petitjean Family, Richard Potash, Charles Wesley Ryan, Jr., Margaret Rucinski, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor Jr., Jerry Schneider, Dale Seymour, Bridgett Shepard, Glenn Sigurnjak, Linda Smith, Leonard Tarrant, Dianne Tootle, Ted Ursu, Rose M. Vail, Margaret Misko VanLoon, and Ashley Vickers.

**Altar Society Members for next week**  
P Zuber, D Beaugez, D Helms, J Hillyard, J Wade

## FAITH FORMATION

**Jan 11: Confirmation Class:** 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
**Jan 12: RCIA:** 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Mount Carmel Meeting Room  
**Jan 15: Adult Study Class,** after 9am Mass, Mount Carmel Mtg Room  
**Faith Formation Classes,** Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 10:15 a.m.  
 Contact Jane Sema at [jsema@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:jsema@osstalphonsus.org)  
**Edge Class,** 4:00 p.m.; **Life Teen Class,** 6:30 p.m.  
 Contact Will Haislmaier at [whaislmaier@osstalphonsus.org](mailto:whaislmaier@osstalphonsus.org)

**The Youth Ministry is looking for volunteers to provide meals on Sunday nights for our high schoolers.** They meet from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Mt. Carmel room and enjoy dinner together before starting the meeting. Thank you to all volunteers who have already provided meals, it is greatly appreciated!

Click on the link to view the details and/or to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054ca9a622a1f58-help#/>



**The Building on Faith, Growing to Serve Campaign** is underway, and we are thankful for the

generosity of our St. Alphonsus community. In the coming weeks, volunteers will reach out individually to members of our parish. We ask that you please keep in mind the following:

**Volunteers – Dual Donation:** Our volunteers are just that – volunteers. They graciously agreed to donate their time and talent for the betterment of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church and School. They are serving in this role because they believe in our parish and are passionate about its future. Please treat them with respect and thank them for helping St. Alphonsus in this important capacity. Return their calls and meet with them for 15 minutes of your time, they just want to briefly explain the campaign goals, answer your questions and receive a decision about your participation.

**Have your pledge card? Return It!** If you received a pledge card inside your packet of materials, you likely will not receive a call from a campaign volunteer. Please discern your involvement in the campaign, complete the card and return it in the envelope provided.

**Your Gift Matters!** Remember, the letter you received from Fr. Mike and Principal Hartzog includes a financial request. It is not an *expectation*. It is an *invitation*. I invite you to pray about this campaign and our faith community. You may not be able to give what was asked. You may be able to give more than asked. Whatever your decision, please know that I deeply appreciate your commitment. It is a true blessing to our parish and school, and so are you!



**Evening of Intercession - Intercessory prayer** is going between the Lord and the person you are praying for, asking the Lord to show them his mercy and blessings. You are invited to come and be a part of this night as we continue with **GENERATIONAL SPIRITS AND HEALING WITH A MASS**. We will meet in the church on **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** Please bring your Rosary with you.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Your prayers are requested for the deceased priests who have ministered in the diocese, especially those who have died around this time of year:  
 Reverend Patrick Tierney, January 9, 1991  
 Reverend Peter F. Mockler, January 30, 2014  
 Bishop Joseph L. Howze, January 9, 2019  
 Reverend John Izral, January 20, 2020

## ST. ALPHONSUS SCHOOL

**Jan 9:** Noon Dismissal / Parent Conferences-Report Cards  
**Jan 13:** Children's Mass, 8:15 a.m.

## ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

**Jan 10:** Baseball Parent Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
**Jan 11:** PTO Meeting, 8:15 a.m.



### New Year Resolutions

**Happy New Year!** Are you still deciding on your New Year's resolution for 2023? Will you choose to start an exercise routine, declutter your home, cut out the sweets? How about choosing to deepen your prayer life and relationship with Jesus? Sign up for 1 hour a week to visit our Lord in the chapel and you will quickly wonder what

took you so long! Scared to commit? Pop in any time, He is there 24/7, waiting for us. We have many hours that are open with no one adoring Jesus, so check out the website to find your hour. Log onto [stalphonsus.weadorehim.com](http://stalphonsus.weadorehim.com) or scan the QR code. If you don't already have an account, create one with a password. It's easy!

**To our Adorers** - Thank you for your commitment to Jesus! We would like to remind you that if you know that you cannot make your hour, please request a substitute on the website. Over the past few weeks, there have been multiple no shows without requests for subs being made. We should not purposely leave Jesus unattended - so we ask that you please use the system that we have installed to help with this. We also ask that if you are not already signed up – to please do so. This will enable you to receive upcoming adoration event information as well as to help in the safety of all who attends Adoration (i.e. receiving update of door code). Need help navigating the website? Call 228-282-0984 for assistance.



To sign up for a holy hour or to become a substitute, scan the QR code or visit [stalphonsus.weadorehim.com/signup](http://stalphonsus.weadorehim.com/signup).



### Willwoods Faith and Marriage Married Couples Retreat

Attention All Married Couples: You are invited to attend an upcoming married couples retreat June 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful St. Joseph Abbey in Covington, LA. You and your spouse will spend time listening to inspiring talks, enjoy private couple time and individual prayer time, adoring the Lord in Eucharist Adoration, and celebrating the Sacraments with fellow couples from our parish. Through God's grace, you will walk away with a renewed strength and a deeper commitment to each other and to God. The retreat starts with breakfast Saturday morning and ends after lunch on Sunday. To register for your relaxing and rejuvenating retreat, visit [FaithandMarriage.org](http://FaithandMarriage.org). A suggested donation of \$325 for the couple is requested but not required. Cost should never be a reason why a couple cannot make the weekend! Scholarships are available! If you have any questions, please call (504) 830-3716. Limited space available.



**Mass for Family and Friends:** You can have Masses offered for the Intention of family and friends as well as for the deceased. Mass cards are available at the Parish Office during regular business hours. The donation for each Mass is \$10.00.



**We congratulate Rhett Newman** – he was the winner of the Henry "Golden Boy" Lever Action Rifle raffled off by the St. Alphonsus Knights of Columbus.